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Date	February 22, 2005	Reg. No.	41,405

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 16869N-091900US
Client Ref. No.: NT1274US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

MASANORI HONDA *et al.*

Application No.: 10/649,307

Filed: August 26, 2003

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
JOB MANAGEMENT

Customer No.: 20350

Examiner: Unassigned

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2186

Confirmation No.: 5407

**RENEWED PETITION TO MAKE
SPECIAL FOR NEW APPLICATION
UNDER M.P.E.P. § 708.02, VIII & 37
C.F.R. § 1.102(d)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Decision dated January 18, 2005 dismissing the original petition to make special, Applicants respectfully submit a renewed petition to make special the above-identified application under MPEP § 708.02, VIII & 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d). The application has not received any examination by an Examiner.

(a) The Commissioner has previously been authorized to charge the petition fee of \$130 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) and any other fees associated with this paper to Deposit Account 20-1430.

(b) All the claims are believed to be directed to a single invention. If the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, then Applicants will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status.

(c) Pre-examination searches were made of U.S. issued patents, including a classification search and a computer database search. The searches were performed on or around July 12, 2004, and were conducted by a professional search firm, Kramer & Amado,

P.C. The classification search covered Class 358 (subclasses 1.12 and 1.15), Class 707 (subclasses 10 and 203), Class 709 (subclasses 201, 203, and 226), and Class 718 (subclasses 100, 102, and 103). The computer database search was conducted on the USPTO systems EAST and WEST.

(d) The following references, copies of which were previously submitted, are deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,408,323 B1;
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,438,553 B1;
- (3) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0007365 A1;
- (4) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0107758 A1;
- (5) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0049531 A1; and
- (6) Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 10074220 A.

(e) Set forth below is a detailed discussion of references which points out with particularity how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over the references.

A. Claimed Embodiments of the Present Invention

The claimed embodiments relate to a job management method, an information processing system, a program, and a recording medium for efficient job management. The claimed embodiments employ a policy stencil for a job definition statement. The policy stencil is an element that defines the model of a policy rule, which is the job definition statement. See specification at page 15, lines 15-17; page 7, line 21 to page 8, line 7.

Independent claim 1 recites a job management method for an information processing system that includes an information processing device. The job management method comprises storing a stencil for a job definition statement and data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup, generating data for executing a process for generating a job definition statement based on contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup, and generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data.

Independent claim 10 recites an information processing system, comprising means for storing a stencil for a job definition statement and data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup, means for generating data for executing a process for generating a job definition statement based on contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement, and means for generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data.

Independent claim 12 recites a computer readable storage medium having a program for enabling an information processing system. The program comprises code for storing a stencil for a job definition statement and for data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup; code for generating data for executing a process for generating a job definition statement based on contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement; and code for generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data.

Independent claim 13 recites a computer readable storage medium having a program for enabling an information processing system. The program comprises code for generating data for executing a process for generating a job definition statement based on the contents set by a user via a user interface in accordance with a stencil for the job definition statement and data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup.

Independent claim 14 recites a computer readable storage medium having a program for enabling an information processing device in an information processing system, which comprises means for storing a stencil for a job definition statement and data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup and means for generating data for executing a process for generating a job definition statement based on the contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for setting the job definition statement, to implement the user interface in accordance with the generated data and exercise a function for generating the job definition statement.

Independent claim 16 recites a storage system which includes a storage device for storing data for use in an operation server and a management server for managing the operation of the storage device, defining the job targeted for execution as a policy rule, and executing a process in compliance with the policy rule. The storage system comprises a storage section configured to store the information about data concerning the policy rule and data prescribing a user interface for setting the policy rule, and a policy wizard GUI. The policy wizard GUI is configured to read the element attribute information about a policy rule from the storage section, process an element of a wizard page defining a guidance window for policy setup, and generate a wizard window; to enter policy rule setup information via the user interface in compliance with an instruction displayed by the generated window; and to generate a policy rule in accordance with the information set via the user interface.

One of the benefits that may be derived is that jobs to be executed by a computer system can be managed more efficiently, even as increased workload is imposed on the users, operators, and other job setup persons.

B. Discussion of the References

1. U.S. Patent No. 6,408,323 B1

This reference discloses a job execution managing apparatus and computer-readable medium with program recorded therein for making a computer function as a job execution managing apparatus (see Fig. 1). It further shows an action managing software 104 comprising an information storing section 201 for storing job information including character string defining a user's action to execute a work with given contents prepared for an arbitrary number of jobs and first relational information correlating job information to a document required when executing a job and second relational information correlating a document to an application program, and an action managing section 202 for selecting and managing a series of jobs executed with the selected application program (see Fig. 2). Each document correlated to an action name is also provided in a writable/readable recording medium. The action managing section 202 manages the action-names relational information (see Fig. 3)

and manages processing steps from initiation of an application program to the end thereof, according to the action-execution relational information (see Fig. 4).

The reference does not disclose or suggest storing a stencil for a job definition statement and data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup, generating data for executing the process for generating a job definition statement based on the contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup, and generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 12, 13, and 14. Nor does it teach a policy wizard GUI which is configured to read the element attribute information about a policy rule from the storage section, process an element of a wizard page defining a guidance window for policy setup, and generate a wizard window; to enter policy rule setup information via the user interface in compliance with an instruction displayed by the generated window; and to generate a policy rule in accordance with the information set via the user interface, as recited in claim 16.

2. U.S. Patent No. 6,438,553 B1

This reference discloses a distributed job integrated management system 1 and method used in a networked computer system. One of the distributed job management systems is used as a master distributed job management system 2 and the rest of the plurality of distributed job management systems are used as slave distributed job management systems 3. These master and slave distributed job management systems 2 and 3, respectively, are integrally managed or administered by a distributed job integrated management system 1. A resource reserving portion 5 determines from a command for inputting jobs whether an inputted job or jobs are to be processed by the master distributed job management system or by the slave distributed job management system 3. A resource allocating portion 6 allocates resources for the slave distributed job management system 3 from host name lists corresponding to the number of the CPU's. See Fig. 1; and column 2, line 48 to column 3, line 16; column 5, line 51 to column 6, line 47.

The reference does not disclose or suggest storing a stencil for a job definition statement and data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup, generating

data for executing the process for generating a job definition statement based on the contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup, and generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 12, 13, and 14. Nor does it teach a policy wizard GUI which is configured to read the element attribute information about a policy rule from the storage section, process an element of a wizard page defining a guidance window for policy setup, and generate a wizard window; to enter policy rule setup information via the user interface in compliance with an instruction displayed by the generated window; and to generate a policy rule in accordance with the information set via the user interface, as recited in claim 16.

3. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0007365 A1

This reference discloses a method of and an apparatus for displaying version information and configuration and a computer-readable recording medium on which a version and configuration information display is recorded. It further shows a document or a program source with configuration, information including its version name and creation date stored in storage. As shown in Fig. 1, the processing program 1 includes a version management system 105 to store, each time a document or a program source is edited, version information including a version name and a creation date thereof in the secondary storage 103. A configuration management program 106 to stores project configuration information 103b in the secondary storage 103. Information 103b includes a set of plurality of documents and a plurality of program sources. The version/configuration information two-dimensional (2D) display program 107 arranges information of constituent elements such as documents and program sources of a project in a vertical direction of a two-dimensional plane and version information of the elements in a horizontal direction in accordance with the creation date to thereby display these items in the two-dimensional manner. See [0034]-[0038] and [0065]-[0072]. This is accomplished by the processing of the version management program 150 (Fig. 2), the configuration management program 106 (Fig. 3), and the version/configuration 2D display program 107 (Fig. 4).

The reference does not disclose or suggest storing a stencil for a job definition statement and data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup, generating data for executing the process for generating a job definition statement based on the contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup, and generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 12, 13, and 14. Nor does it teach a policy wizard GUI which is configured to read the element attribute information about a policy rule from the storage section, process an element of a wizard page defining a guidance window for policy setup, and generate a wizard window; to enter policy rule setup information via the user interface in compliance with an instruction displayed by the generated window; and to generate a policy rule in accordance with the information set via the user interface, as recited in claim 16.

4. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0107758 A1

This reference discloses a job executing system and a job executing method where an input-related job and an output-related job are associated with each other. It further shows a job executing system in which designated jobs are executed in time series, including a job management unit 47 for managing input-related jobs which execute chiefly input processing, and output-related jobs which execute chiefly output processing. An "input-related job" refers to a job which chiefly executes input processing viewed from the communication device (for example, multi function peripheral 10). An "output-related job" refers to a job which chiefly executes output processing viewed from the communication device. For example, in the case where the multi function peripheral 10 receives and electronic mail, the receiving of the electronic mail is an input-related job. By contrast, in the case where the content of a received electronic mail is print-output, the print-outputting is an output-related job. See [0010]-[0016] and [0064]-[0067]. Note that Figures 8 and 9 as described in paragraphs [0049]-[0078] are omitted, making the disclosure of this reference incomplete.

As can be best understood based on the incomplete disclosure, the reference does not disclose or suggest storing a stencil for a job definition statement and data

prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup, generating data for executing the process for generating a job definition statement based on the contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup, and generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 12, 13, and 14. Nor does it teach a policy wizard GUI which is configured to read the element attribute information about a policy rule from the storage section, process an element of a wizard page defining a guidance window for policy setup, and generate a wizard window; to enter policy rule setup information via the user interface in compliance with an instruction displayed by the generated window; and to generate a policy rule in accordance with the information set via the user interface, as recited in claim 16.

5. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0049531 A1

This reference discloses a job network setup method, a job network execution method, a job management system, and a management terminal, and a program. It further shows a job network setup method in a job management system which controls the execution of jobs according to a set job network. In executing a set job network, the manager 11 performs initial processing (S311) first including initialization of variables used and memory contents and then repeatedly executes processes job network acceptance (S321), job network analysis (S322), and job network execution (S323), during a period (S320) until a termination-instructing interrupt is input. The manager 11 performs termination processing (S324) when an interrupt is input. The job network execution (S323) involves the manager 11 choosing an executable job (S411), analyzing the information set up for the selected job (S412), and determining whether that job is to be executed by the other computer or by the manager 11. See Figs. 3 and 4; and [0053]-[0055] and [0064]-[0068].

The reference does not disclose or suggest storing a stencil for a job definition statement and data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup, generating data for executing the process for generating a job definition statement based on the contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup, and

generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 12, 13, and 14. Nor does it teach a policy wizard GUI which is configured to read the element attribute information about a policy rule from the storage section, process an element of a wizard page defining a guidance window for policy setup, and generate a wizard window; to enter policy rule setup information via the user interface in compliance with an instruction displayed by the generated window; and to generate a policy rule in accordance with the information set via the user interface, as recited in claim 16.

6. Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 10074220 A

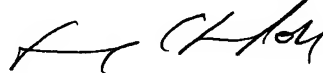
This reference relates to a method for defining job execution information to efficiently support the job execution of an operator regardless of experience and know-how. This is done by describing the job execution information with the combination of steps composed of an operation procedure. The method provides the entire control part 100 of a job execution information definition program 10, an input/output control part 110 for controlling the input/output of data to an input means 20 and an output means 30, and an information management part 120 for managing information relating to the steps among the constituting elements of the job execution information. Then, the job execution information is described by the combination of the start of a job, the end of the job, the parallel processing of the plural steps, the synchronous processing of the plural steps for turning the other steps to a standby state until the final step is completed, conditional branching for deciding the step to be processed next corresponding to an operation result until then, and optional branching for enabling the optional selection of the step to be processed next in addition to the steps (operation procedure).

The reference is directed to the definition approach of the operating execution information characterized by describing the operating execution information in the combination of steps which include work habits in the system that supports the business which an operator performs. It does not disclose or suggest storing a stencil for a job definition statement and data prescribing a user interface for job definition statement setup, generating data for executing the process for generating a job definition statement based on the contents set by a user via the user interface in accordance with the stencil for the job

definition statement and the data prescribing the user interface for job definition statement setup, and generating the job definition statement by executing the process in accordance with the generated data, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 12, 13, and 14. Nor does it teach a policy wizard GUI which is configured to read the element attribute information about a policy rule from the storage section, process an element of a wizard page defining a guidance window for policy setup, and generate a wizard window; to enter policy rule setup information via the user interface in compliance with an instruction displayed by the generated window; and to generate a policy rule in accordance with the information set via the user interface, as recited in claim 16.

(f) In view of this petition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a first Office Action at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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